

Amendment

In the Claims

Claims 1-35 (cancelled)

36. (currently amended) A seed, for implantation into a subject, wherein the seed is a combination product comprising

- a) a biocompatible carrier,
- b) one or more therapeutic components,
- c) an imaging, radiopaque, or other diagnostic marker, and
- d) one or more means structures to maintain location or orientation of the seed ~~upon implantation~~ selected from the group consisting of one or more biodegradable structures effective to prevent migration ~~upon implantation~~ of the seed ~~into a target in~~ tissue, one or more biodegradable structures effective to maintain orientation in tissue ~~upon implantation~~, and one or more compliant setal or hair structures which impart adhesive properties ~~upon implantation into a target tissue~~,

wherein the one or more biodegradable structures effective to prevent migration or maintain orientation in tissue are selected from the group consisting of ridges, bumps, ribs, fins, grapple shaped anchors, wings, stabilizers, bristles, rings, bands, hooks, knots, twists, braids, coils, male and female ends to facilitate joining of the seeds, and combinations thereof.

wherein the seed has a size and shape suitable for passing through the bore of a needle or catheter having an interior diameter of less than about 2.7 mm (10 gauge).

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

37. (previously presented) The seed of claim 36 wherein the seed is shaped into a cylinder or rod having a diameter of between about 0.8 to 3 mm and a length of up to 40 mm.

38. (previously presented) The seed of claim 36 wherein the biodegradable structures are comprised of polymeric substances.

39. (previously presented) The seed of claim 36 wherein the biodegradable structures are comprised of non-polymeric or inorganic substances.

40. (previously presented) The seed of claim 36 wherein more than one seed is formed as a continuous chain or array of seeds.

41. (previously presented) The seed of claim 40 wherein the chain or continuous array includes spacer material .

42. (previously presented) The seed of claim 40 wherein one or more seeds are elongated into strands to form a continuous chain or array of seeds.

43. (previously presented) The seed of claim 41 wherein the seeds and spacers in the chain or continuous array are indistinguishably linked.

44. (previously presented) The seed of claim 41 wherein the color, texture, diameter, hardness, or shape of the spacers is used for identification and demarcation.

45. (previously presented) The seed of claim 40 wherein the chain or continuous array comprises indiscrete seeds, is flaccid, rigid, flexible, spring-shaped, coiled, spiral-shaped, springy, bent, latticed, knotted, interconnected, linked, or fused.

46. (previously presented) The seed of claim 41 wherein spacers are located at varying distances from one another, separated by one, two, three, four, five or more seeds.

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47. (canceled)

48. (currently amended) The seed of claim 36 wherein the means structures to maintain location or orientation comprises a smart polymer, a shape memory polymer, or other substrate to achieve configuration modification at implantation.

49. (previously presented) The seed of claim 36 wherein the biocompatible carrier is elastic .

50. (previously presented) The seed of claim 36 wherein one or more of the therapeutic components is radioactive.

51. (previously presented) The seed of claim 36 wherein one or more of the therapeutic components is non-radioactive.

52. (previously presented) The seed of claim 36 wherein the imaging, radiopaque, or diagnostic marker is the biocompatible carrier.

53. (previously presented) The seed of claim 36 further comprising a means of tracing the radioactive contents comprising the radioactive component.

54. (previously presented) The seed of claim 53 wherein the tracer is fluorescent, luminescent, colored, pigmented, dyed, tagged, or quantum dots.

55. (previously presented) The seed of claim 36 wherein one or more of the components comprises a biodegradable magnetic polymer suitable for heating in a magnetic field.

56. (new) The seed of claim 42, wherein two or more strands are combined to form a knot, twist, coil, or combinations thereof.

57. (new) The seed of claim 40, wherein the chain of seeds is configured into a knot, twist, coil, or combinations thereof.

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58. (new) The seed of claim 36, wherein the one or more structures cover to maintain location or orientation of the seed cover at least a portion of the seed.

59. (new) The seed of claim 42, wherein the one or more structures to maintain location or orientation of the seed cover at least a portion of the seed.

60. (new) A seed, for implantation into a subject, wherein the seed is a combination product comprising

a) a biocompatible metallic carrier,

b) one or more therapeutic components,

c) an imaging, radiopaque, or other diagnostic marker, and

d) one or more structures to maintain location or orientation of the seed selected from the group consisting of one or more biodegradable structures effective to prevent migration of the seed in tissue, one or more biodegradable structures effective to maintain orientation in tissue, and one or more compliant setal or hair structures which impart adhesive properties,

wherein the one or more biodegradable structures effective to prevent migration or maintain orientation in tissue comprise one or more bands and one or more ribs,

wherein the seed has a size and shape suitable for passing through the bore of a needle or catheter having an interior diameter of less than about 2.7 mm (10 gauge).